

Appl. No. 09/241,335
Reply to Office Action of July 27, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the rejections set forth in the Office Action dated July 27, 2004 is respectfully requested. Claims 1-12, 14-21, and 23-26 are currently pending and have been rejected.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-6, 8, 9, 14-19, and 23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Bjornberg et al. (US Patent No. 6,647,111). Claims 24-26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hammarström et al. (US Patent No. 6,044,142).

Claim 1 and its dependents

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite that the general-purpose blocks are configurable to at least two configurations, with two of the possible configurations being recited in the claim. This amendment is clearly supported by the specification (see, e.g., page 5, line 21, et seq.) and distinguishes the invention over the cited art.

The Office Action asserted that because of the "or" language in the claim 1, the claim could be anticipated by showing just one of the configurations recited therein (page 7). This has been rendered moot since now the claim clearly recites at least two configurations.

With regard to claim 1, the Office Action asserted that the general-purpose block of claim 1 read on the primitive Menu SIBBs in Bjornberg (Fig. 7n and col. 12, lines 7-10). As amended, the claim was in no way reads on this structure.

The Menu SIBBs are alleged to send a timeout_error signal or input_error signal without requiring input (Office Action, page 2). The input_error signal would seem to require input since the input is what generated the error. As for the timeout_error signal, assuming for the sake of

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argument that this is sent without requiring input, the Menu SIBBs are not shown to be configurable to one configuration that sends this signal without requiring input and another configuration that sends a signal based on input as claimed.

Instead, at best, the Office Action has presented a reference that describes a block that can implement a menu and send a signal if an input timeout occurs. This is not the general-purpose block that is recited in claim 1 as it has not been shown to be configuration in the two configurations that are recited in the claim.

As Bjornberg has not been shown to disclose the two configurations recited in claim 1, the claim and its dependents are patentably distinct over the reference.

Claim 15 and its dependents

Independent claim 15 has been amended to include two configurations as described above in reference to claim 1. Thus, claim 15 and its dependents are patentably distinct over Bjornberg for at least the same reasons.

Claim 24 and its dependents

Claim 24 recites a method of modifying an interactive voice response system at run-time that includes modifying a configuration of a selected general-purpose block, and updating the configuration of the selected general-purpose block at run-time. The Examiner has argued that Hammarström teach of such features.

The passage Hammarström cited by the Examiner at lines 58-64 of column 3 reads:

"In communicating with the caller, the operator may initiate an action at an operator workstation that is ultimately provided to and executed by the intelligent network service logic. Such execution typically includes executing one or more service independent building blocks to implement the operator-initiated command in the context of a service script composed of several service independent building blocks."

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Hammarström appear to teach that an operator may initiate an action that is performed by service independent building blocks (SIBs), and make no mention of modifying a service independent building block or of updating the configuration of a service independent building block at run-time. In response, the Office Action asserted that that Hammarström teaches an SIB can have the configuration updated at run-time, but there is no citation of where this is actually taught in the reference (page 8). Applicant has not seen where Hammarström is alleged to teach that a general-purpose block can have the configuration updated at run-time as recited in claim 24. As a *prima facie* case of anticipation requires, among other things, that a reference teach all the features of a claim, a *prima facie* case of anticipation has not been established and claims 24-26 are patentably distinct over the reference.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 7, 10-12, and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over by Bjornberg et al. (US Patent No. 6,647,111) in view of Malik (US Patent No. 6,463,130).

Claims 7, 10-12, and 21 are all dependent claims and, hence, include all of the limitations of their respective base claims. Since the Examiner has not shown how Malik remedies the deficiencies of the primary reference Bjornberg, claims 7, 10-12, and 21 are patentably distinct over the art of record for at least the reasons set forth above.

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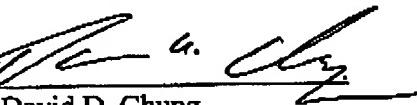
Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant believes all the pending claims are in condition for allowance and should be passed to issue. If any fees are due in connection with the filing of this amendment, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 19-2179.

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Respectfully requested,

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